

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1826

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4932

CINCPAC ALSO PASS POLAD

E. O. 11652: DECLASSIFY 6/30/74

TAGS: MOPS, MARR, SEATO

SUBJ: SEATO MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISE PX-50

1. COUNCIL REPS AT MARCH 26 MEETING WERE REQUESTED TO GIVE POLITICAL CLEARANCE TO SEATO MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISE PX-50, NICKNAMED "BANGRACHAN", AND APPROVE INITIAL PRESS RELEASE AND PUBLICITY GUIDANCE RELATED TO EXERCISE. SUBJECT WAS REFERRED TO PWG.

2. COPIES OF SCR/74/D-6, DATED MARCH 14, WHICH CONCERN EXERCISE HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO EA/RA UNDER COVER REGISTRY NO. 608910. AS EVIDENT FROM SCR/74/D-6, PX-50 IS NOT REALLY A CONVENTIONAL EXERCISE, BUT RATHER A COMBINED STUDY-SYMPOSIUM FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON THE THAI INSURGENCY. THIS "EXERCISE", SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE JUNE 12-25, IS TO BE CONDUCTED IN THREE PHASES:

A) BRIEFINGS AT SEATO HDQTRS. BY RTG AND PHILIPPINES OFFICIALS ON THE INSURGENCIES IN THE TWO REGIONAL MEMBER COUNTRIES,
B) VISITS TO CHIANG MAI, NAN, SAKON NAKORN AND NAKON PHANOM, THAILAND, TO RECEIVE CI BRIEFINGS BY RTG PERSONNEL (NO OBSERVATION OF ACTIVE MILITARY OPERATIONS OR DEMONSTRATION OF OPERATIONAL TECHNIQUES WOULD BE INCLUDED),
AND C) PRESENTATIONS AT SEATO HDQTRS. BY PARTICIPATING

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CIVILIAN AND MILITARY EXPERTS IN SELECTED SUBJECTS CONCERNED

WITH INSURGENCY, CONCLUDING WITH SYMPOSIUM DISCUSSIONS.

3. IT IS EXPECTED THAT SOME 50 PERSONNEL WILL PARTICIPATE AS FOLLOWS: AUSTRALIA-6, NEW ZEALAND-8, PHILIPPINES-10, THAILAND-9, UK-8 AND US-9. THIS LOW-PROFILE "EXERCISE" IS IN KEEPING WITH THE 18TH COUNCIL MEETING DECISION THAT FUTURE SEATO MILITARY EXERCISES SHOULD BE AIMED AT IMPROVING "MEASURES, TECHNIQUES AND CAPABILITIES IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY/DEVELOPMENT" (E.E., CSI).

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY TO CONVEY POLITICAL APPROVAL FOR PX-50, PROPOSED PUBLICITY GUIDANCE AND INITIAL PRESS RELEASE (ALSO CONTAINED IN SCR/74/D-6).
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